ISSN 0027-965X

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE NEWS

Published for institutions and individuals interested in health sciences communications.

Vol. XXXIII, No. 4 Bethesda, Maryland April 1977

Appointments to Board of Regents

The Senate confirmed the nomination of seven members to the NLM Board of Regents on March 20, 1978. The Library had been without appointed Regents since last August, when the term of Dr. Joseph F. Volker expired. Board meetings scheduled for September 1977 and January 1978 were cancelled. The new Regents are

Thomas C. Chalmers, M.D.
President and Dean
Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York

Nicholas E. Davies, M.D.
Attending Physician
Piedmont Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia

S. Richardson Hill, Jr., M.D.
President
University of Alabama in Birmingham

Doris H. Merritt, M.D.
Dean, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
Indiana—Purdue University

Cecil G. Sheps, M.D.
Professor of Social Medicine
University of North Carolina

Kelly M. West, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and of Continuing Education
University of Oklahoma

James F. Williams, II
Medical Librarian
Shiffman Medical Library
Wayne State University

The Board of Regents, established by the National Library of Medicine Act of 1956, advises the Director and staff of the Library. The Regents also review applications for grants. The Act stipulates that ten appointed Regents shall be selected from among leaders in the fundamental and medical sciences, scientific or medical library work, public affairs, public health, and hospital administration. The Board meets three times a year.

In addition to the ten appointed members there are seven *ex officio* Regents: the Surgeons General of the Public Health Service, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, the Chief Medical Director of the Department of Medicine and Surgery of the Veterans Administration, the Assistant Director for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Science of the National Science Foundation, and the Librarian of Congress. Names of potential nominees to fill the remaining three vacancies on the Board are still under consideration.

The next meeting of the Board of Regents is scheduled for May 25–26, 1978.

New Online Data Base for Bioethics

The NLM family of computerized online bibliographic data bases has a new member: BIOETHICSLINE. It joins MEDLINE, TOXLINE®, CATLINE®, and the other data bases available over the NLM online network.

BIOETHICSLINE provides online access to citations which appear in the *Bibliography of Bioethics,* a series developed by the Center for Bioethics, Kennedy Institute, Georgetown University. The online data base presently contains approximately 5,000 citations from 1973 to date. The file will be updated every four months, and about 1,500 new records will be added each year.

BIOETHICSLINE is a comprehensive, cross-disciplinary collection of references to print and non-print materials on bioethical topics. Bioethics can be defined as the sys-

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

Martin M. Cummings, M.D. Director, NLM

Robert B. Mehnert, Chief, Office of Inquiries and Publications Management

Roger L. Gilkeson, Editor (301) 496-6308

Daniel L. Carangi, Graphics

8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014

tematic study of value questions which arise in the biomedical and behavioral fields. Specific issues include euthanasia, psychosurgery, human experimentation, genetic intervention, abortion, the definition of death, medical confidentiality, and the allocation of scarce medical resources.

To maintain the file, the Center for Bioethics systematically monitors 60 secondary reference tools and 70 primary journals for English language materials which discuss bioethical issues. The file incorporates a variety of media and literary forms, including journal and newspaper articles, monographs, essays in books, court decisions, bills, State and federal statutes, audiovisual materials, and unpublished documents. Materials are selected from the literature of the health and medical sciences, philosophy, law, religion, psychology, and from the popular media.

BIOETHICSLINE may be searched by NLM's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), by terms from the Center's Bioethics Thesaurus, or by free text terms appearing in titles.

Citations within the BIOETHICSLINE data base, and also the Center's thesaurus, will continue to be published annually in the printed *Bibliography of Bioethics*. The first three volumes of the *Bibliography*—edited by LeRoy Walters, Director of the Kennedy Institute Center for Bioethics—cover 3,500 documents from 1973 through 1976. They are available for $24 per clothbound volume from the Gale Research Company (Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226).

For information about joining NLM's online network, contact your Regional Medical Library. See also the article "Joining NLM's Online Network" in the March 1978 *NLM News*.

And Cleveland 351 Miles Away . . .

The article below was written by Harold A. Wooster, Ph.D., Special Assistant for Program Development, Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, NLM. For other articles on the use of the Communications Technology Satellite (CTS) for transmitting biomedical information, see the News *for May and November 1977.*

It started out to be just another teleconference—complicated, to be sure, but the complicated has become routine.

The Honorable Dan Rostenkowski (D., Ill.), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the House Ways and Means Committee, was scheduled to speak in the Grand Ballroom of the Cleveland Plaza Hotel at 8:30 p.m. on the 16th of March. His audience, attending the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Greater Cleveland Hospital Association, waited eagerly to hear the Congressman discuss his proposed legislation on hospital cost containment. The NASA Portable Earth Terminal, a modified interurban bus with an 8-foot satellite dish on top, was parked on the street outside the hotel with its motors running, ready to transmit the Congressman's speech via the Communications Technology Satellite to the Lister Hill Center studio in the National Library of Medicine.

Four people were waiting there to answer Mr. Rostenkowski: Leo Gehrig, M.D., Vice President for Federal Relations, American Hospital Association; Alexander McMahon, President, American Hospital Association; Robert B. Hunter, M.D., Chairman of the Board, American Medical Association; and, Thomas H. Sherlock, President, Blue Cross of Maryland. The TV stations of the Southern Education Communications As-

sociation (SECA) were ready to receive: stations in Louisville, Kentucky; Harrisonburg, Virginia; Hampton-Norfolk, Virginia; Birmingham, Alabama; Athens, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; Austin, Texas; and Oklahoma City. Down in South Carolina, the thirty-two hospitals of the Health Communications Network were ready for a rebroadcast from the Medical University of South Carolina.

Everything was ready for Congressman Rostenkowski's broadcast from Cleveland, but the Congressman wasn't in Cleveland. That afternoon the Humphrey-Hawkins bill came before the House of Representatives, and Congressman Rostenkowski had to be there. The Democratic leadership had made passage of the bill a party issue, and Mr. Rostenkowski was whip on that bill and could not leave the floor. As the afternoon wore on, his staff fidgeted nervously with copies of the *Airline Guide;* reservations were made and cancelled. The time passed when even a chopper flight from Cleveland-Hopkins airport to downtown Cleveland could have kept the appointment. The final vote (257 to 152) was completed at 7:00 p.m. Congressman Rostenkowski was now free to keep his speaking engagement, 351 miles and 90 minutes away! What to do?

The Lister Hill Center suggested the solution. The Congressman and his aide drove to Bethesda, and broadcast via satellite *to* Cleveland. The Cleveland audience saw him on monitors, rather than in person; the Bethesda discussants saw him in person, rather than over monitors. Questions came in from the Cleveland audience, and over long-distance lines from viewers of the SECA stations. A tense evening concluded in relative tranquility.

In 1974 the Lister Hill Center "Report to Congress" concluded with the sentence: "Whenever and wherever possible, within the limitations of available technologies . . . the Center hopes to substitute the swift and certain transmission of electrical messages for the slow and expensive movement of people." Apparently it works.

Computer Applications to Dental Education Explored at AADS Workshop

Over 60 members of the American Association of Dental Schools (AADS) participated in a workshop at NLM on March 11, where they received hands-on experience with the latest computer based education (CBE) technologies. The workshop, which preceded the AADS annual convention in Washington, D.C., was hosted by the Lister Hill Center's Computer Technology Branch and sponsored by the AADS's Learning Resources Section.

Lister Hill Center staff members William Spencer, Bonnie Shrader, and Michele Williams introduced the educators to CBE applications involving use of the PILOT 8080 language on a stand-alone microcomputer, and to a multi-media computer and slide instruction package developed by Ohio State University.

Dr. Gary Jones of the University of Nebraska Dental School demonstrated a sophisticated application of PLATO (a computer based education system developed by the University of Illinois) that integrates lessons with interactive graphic simulations of dental practice. A unique feature of the system is the use of a rear view random access slide projector to supplement PLATO simulations. (This project was supported by an NLM grant.)

Presentations were also made by Dave Walters from Control Data Corporation, who discussed PLATO Computer-Managed Instruction development; James vonFeldt of the Rochester Institute of Technology, who demonstrated a microcomputer controlled videosystem for integrating computer based question-asking and analysis with video instructional media; and a discussion by Charles M. Goldstein, Chief of the Computer Technology Branch, Lister Hill Center, on the state-of-the-art in CBE and the potential application of video-disk technology as an instructional medium. On March 14, Mr. Goldstein addressed the AADS convention on the subject of computers in health science education.

Vasta Elected to ACS Post

Bruno M. Vasta, Chief of the Library's Bibliographic Services Division, has been elected to a two-year term as Councilor of the American Chemical Society's Division of Chemical Information. In this capacity, Mr. Vasta will serve as liaison between the ACS Council and the Division's Executive Committee. Mr. Vasta has held numerous positions within the Division, recently completing his term as Chairman.

Publication Notes

• *NLM On-Line Services Reference Manual, 1978.* Sold by the National Technical Information Service (5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161) for $15.00 ($3.00 microfiche). PB–277–167 (Supersedes PB–253–557). The $15.00 hard copy price includes a three-ring binder, divider tabs, and 482 text pages.

This comprehensive manual—for the operation of MEDLINE, TOXLINE®, CATLINE®, AVLINE, and the other NLM online data bases—contains specific information on the modes of accessing these data bases, the commands which may be used, techniques for searching them, etc.

• *Permuted Medical Subject Headings, 1978.* Sold by NTIS (address above) for $11.75 ($3.00 microfiche). PB–277–921 (Supersedes PB–259–021).

A companion to *MeSH Annotated Alphabetic List, 1978* and *MeSH Tree Structures, 1978,* this publication is a computer-generated display of all terms, including major descriptors, minor descriptors, and entry terms, in NLM's Medical Subject Headings for 1978. The *Permuted MeSH* takes each significant word that appears in any MeSH term and then lists all the terms in which that word appears.

ILL Policy Addendum

Please note the following addendum to the Interlibrary Loan Policy (see March 1978 *News,* p. 7):

Special Photographic Services

4. Special rules apply to material in the historical collection. For further information address the Chief, History of Medicine Division.

Erratum

The domestic prices for the *NLM Current Catalog* and the *Current Bibliography of Epidemiology* quoted on page 4 of the March 1978 *NLM News* are incorrect. The correct prices are $18.25 (not $18.75) and $13.75 (not $14.75). We regret the errors.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
8600 ROCKVILLE PIKE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE $300

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF H.E.W.
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
HEW-394

634 S WESTLAKE AVE
LOS ANGELES CALIF 90057